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LISMORE CITY HALL

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Coast Rail
Leap Manifesto

KEVIN HOGAN
KUDRA FALLA-RICKETTS

JANELLE SAFFIN
BETHANY McALPINE

TUESDAY 7TH JUNE 2016 MC - LARISSA ZIMMERMAN
Doors open 6pm, bar facilities available, 6:30pm start
More info: Alan Roberts 6663 5224, Jill Lyons 0416 032 607

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Question the candidates for Page

by Alan Roberts



MC Larissa Zimmerman with her bullwhip

We're powerful. Our Page electorate, being marginal, forces us to decide who governs Australia.

For us to be intelligent about this monumental responsibility, GetUp has mentored a local group to organise the Page Candidates Forum.

After the biggest such GetUp get-together in Australia at the Bentley Hall, all four Page candidates have kindly agreed to attend the forum – they are Kudra Falla-Ricketts, Kevin Hogan, Bethany McAlpine and Janelle Saffin.

The forum will be in the 500-seat Lismore City Hall on Tuesday 7th June. Doors open at 6pm for a 6.30 start. The format will be five minutes each per candidate to address the community then 90 minutes of cut-through questions, delivered by the MC and answered by each candidate. The evaluation of the answers will appear on the GetUp candidates score card.

Be assured that you will be protected from pollicie waffle, jargon or obfuscation. The protection will be a yellow card on your seat. If the candidate runs off the rails and doesn't answer the question then hold up your

yellow card. When sufficient yellow cards are up, a gong will sound, forcing the candidate to attend to the question or lose votes.

Our Master of Ceremonies is an experienced political campaigner, Larissa Zimmerman, who, standing for the Sex Party in the 2010 senate elections, got more primary votes than Labor's Matt Thistlewaite. Matt got in on preferences, Larissa didn't. She has a variety of whips including a bull whip and a cat o' nine tails, which may or may not be required on the night! She is now a member of the SustainAustralia party.

You can enter your questions to candidates when you RSVP to the forum at: <http://election-events.getup.org.au/bq96-page-candidates-forum> Whilst we can't get every question we'd like in the time available, we'll try and cover sufficient range of our community's concerns to get a gist of how they might deal with other issues.

So repeating: Page Candidates Forum at Lismore City Hall on Tuesday 7th June, 6pm for 6.30pm. We hope to see you there.

For more info: Alan Roberts, 6663-5224, alan_roberts@ozemail.com.au Get to the GetUp! Inspired, No Bullshit Page Candidates Forum

In praise of peeing in public pools or such

by Sue Edmonds

This year, Australia's contribution to the 15th Venice architecture Biennale is an exhibition highlighting our many and varied public pools. To commemorate this event, a book titled *The Pool* has been published containing fabulous photos and articles about the cultural importance of pools in Australia.

Most people have fond memories of their local pool they visited when growing up. It's the place where you saw wrinkly old people, cherubic smooth skinned babies, near naked, fat and skinny folk in the communal space with kids jumping, diving off shoulders and older people gently paddling. People lying around on towels, chatting and reading, there's space for all at a public pool.

Pools vary according to their location, maybe it's a billabong, a concrete inner city pool, a rock pool or a coastal pool free and open all year 24 hours a day, symbolic of the egalitarian Australian spirit. It's rare to find such an inclusive space that caters for people of all physical abilities, ages and nationalities providing an environment perfect for leisure and exercise.

When author Anna Funda was asked about the importance of a public pool to a community her response was: "I think the pool is really pivotal for a community, like a library where you can go and dive into knowledge for free



Three-legged race at this year's Nimbim Pool Olympics

in your own time, the public pool is the same." Shane Gould (gold medallist in 1972 when just 15) comments: "It's hard to account for the social value a pool brings, it's not just a place for people to swim, it's a place for people of all ages to gather together. That's how democracy works, that's how a community is built." Ian Thorpe comments: "A pool is a place where one learns about relative weightlessness that does not exist on earth."

Nimbim's circular pool was built by the community and opened in 1978. It is managed by the lessees of the Caravan Park for Lismore City Council. It's open for the six months of Spring and Summer each year and visited by thousands of folk, locals and tourists alike. It is free to all, and kept impeccably clean by the pool manager.

It needs annual maintenance as the surface breaks down, in fact it requires a whole resurfacing which would cost approximately \$200,000. This would last for five or more years, saving on the annual piecemeal patching.

Friends of Nimbim Pool organise an annual celebration, the Nimbim Pool Olympics on Australia Day each year with watery novelty events as a fundraiser for the pool and amenities. The Friends have paid for and maintained the seats, installed a drinking fountain near the popular BBQ area and will be contributing towards some fencing repairs.

Our pool would be the most used community sports facility, catering for all ages and abilities and it is very important that we continue to keep it in good condition.

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New classroom at Tuntable Community School

Federal Member for Page, Kevin Hogan and Lismore Mayor Jenny Dowell have cut the ribbon to officially open the new multi-purpose classroom at Tuntable Falls Community Primary School.

The Australian Government provided \$250,000 in funding from the Capital Grants Programme for Non-Governmental Schools, out of the total build cost of around \$320,000, to include a storage area underneath the building and pathways, funded by the school.

Students and staff now have full use of the new classroom and teacher storeroom. The classroom appointments include a networked Apple computer bench and smart board with modular desk space and a large carpeted open area. "I was pleased to visit



Tuntable Falls Community Primary School and see firsthand the new facilities," Mr Hogan said. "These new learning areas take into account the latest in education research and will see students learn more effectively."

Kevin Hogan was representing the Minister for Education and Training, Senator Simon Birmingham.

In his speech of thanks, Year 6 student Mandi Raval (pictured) said, "The new

classroom is a large, light and airy space, which enhances the children's learning experience. We are all enjoying using the wonderful space.

"This classroom did not just appear out of thin air one day, it is the culmination of the efforts of a number of our parents. Tien, Gin and Mac worked tirelessly for about two years to secure the federal funding grant which made it all happen. Dave, another parent, co-

ordinated and oversaw the building of the project and dealt with Lismore Council, while Biskit took care of the financial reporting to the grant authority.

"Our builders – Jason and Shane of Jaz Constructions and their fabulous team did a great job and finished the project in time for the start of term 1. Tony Meggs did the working and engineering drawings, and Mark Norris was our consultant for the DA process.

"Thanks also to Nerelle and the upper primary kids, who have done a fantastic job with the landscaping. We need a big round of applause for everyone who was involved."

Mr Hogan, an ex-teacher, said, "While buildings alone do not make a great school, I hope students and staff will enjoy learning and be inspired by these new facilities."

Grant secures Community Centre upgrade

Nimbin Community Centre has been successful in applying for a Federal grant under the Stronger Communities Program to upgrade the Casuarina building over the next 12 months.

The \$14,704 federal grant will be matched by the Community Centre, bringing the total amount of the project to \$29,408. Works will include the installation of a toilet in the building; an upgrade of the lighting in the Wai:bal Aboriginal Cultural Centre and installation of toilet facilities; and repairs to the roof and walkways.

On Tuesday 17th May, Justine Elliott MP visited to present payment confirmation for the project, accompanied by Janelle Saffin, Labor candidate for Page.

"I congratulate the Nimbin Community Centre on this important project," Justine Elliot said. "Our local Stronger Communities Programme will deliver total funding of \$150,000 across the Richmond electorate for small capital grants supporting projects that will contribute to the vibrancy and viability of our region."

Community Centre Co-ordinator, Kerryn Liddell expressed thanks to the partners in the grant application: Ngulingah Local Aboriginal Land Council, Wai:bal Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Nimbin Aged Care and



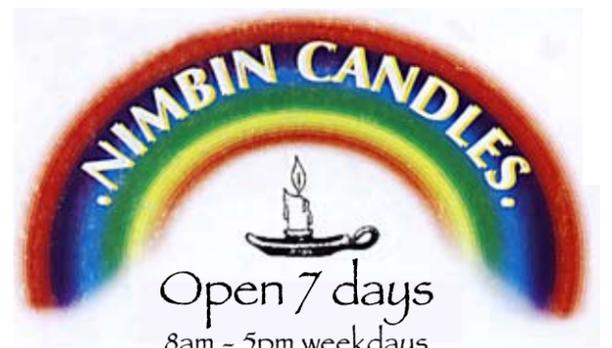
Committee members Linnet Pike, Diana Roberts and Dick Hopkins with Janelle Saffin and Justine Elliot MP

Respite Service; and thanked Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre and Nim-FM for their support.

Other grants applied for by the Community Centre in the past few months include the Safer Streets Program to improve community safety; Regional Aboriginal Arts funding to run Aboriginal arts and cultural activities; and NCC has also been able to assist Friends of Nimbin Skate Park

to apply for a Community Grant from Lismore City Council.

If you would like to get involved and take part in the future of Nimbin Community Centre, become a member. Membership fees are \$15 (adult), \$10 (seniors over 60) and \$5 (youth). Your membership assists to guarantee the success of the organisation as an effective vehicle for current and future community initiatives.



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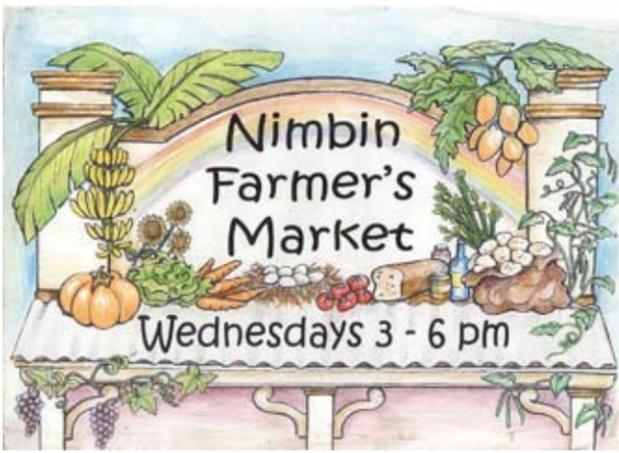
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Enviro centre joins Beef Week parade

Nimbin Environment Centre News
by Stewart James

As we've done for a number of years now, CEC proudly entered a float in the Casino Beef Week Parade in May. We were once again supported by members and friends from the local community and all three Environment Centres who were up at sparrow fart and in Casino at 8am preparing the float.

Although it was windy and sometimes chilly, the Quoll and Owl (see picture) worked up a sweat greeting the crowds along Walker Street, melting everyone's hearts and minds and kindly reminding everyone about the meaning behind biodiversity. That is, "If there's no tree - there's no me".

I do believe if we all make the time, effort and space in our hearts and minds to preserve a little more of our biodiversity, then we will make progress to actively protect and conserve our precious native plants and animals. We're born with nothing and will die with nothing - we can't take it with us. While on earth we don't need to take the lot.

We received many, "thank you", "well done, you're doing a great job," and "keep it up" comments from onlookers, including - I'm pleased to say - quite a few farmers at this year's parade. How things have changed.

This acknowledgement means a lot to me, as it shows how far we've come in helping to win hearts and minds in this traditionally conservative community, as it would to past and present volunteers. These powerful acknowledgements belong to everyone who supports the CEC. I want to congratulate all past and present volunteers for their tireless effort and care for our local environment.

Risk of mega-fires

Heard the term "mega-fire"? Mega-fires are defined as those rare but extremely frightening fires that exhibit behaviour characteristics that exceed all efforts at control, regardless of the type, kind, or number of firefighting resources deployed.

These fires represent only 0.1% of all forest fires in the US, yet account for 95% of the area burnt and 85% of the total fire suppression costs. They often burn into the urban interface zone where there are very high asset values and very high human and financial costs of damage.

Our three environment centres are shortly going to start a regular discussion group regarding the Northern Rivers region and climate change, including the resulting risk of mega-



fires and the need, or not, for preventative burning.

There's a complex question of where and how much burning should be done. The fear is if we don't do adequate and well considered preventative burning we could lose the whole region in a mega-fire. Definitely a discussion worth having!

This group is in its start-up stage, and will be seeking input and ideas from all interested people in our community. Anyone interested in contributing to these discussions should leave their name and contact details at Nimbin Environment Centre.

Speaking of fire risks, on a recent visit to State Nationals MP for Tweed, Geoff Provest, I mentioned that some fire trails have become impassable, which would make fighting a fire extremely difficult and dangerous. It's critical to keep these trails open so ready access in and out is possible in the event of a bushfire.

Rural Fire Services do have a significant budget for maintaining these roads which, apparently, is not being fully utilised. I believe our community should be more involved in making sure these funds are fully and properly spent.

NR Transport Forum

The Northern Rivers Transport Forum will be held on Saturday 4th June at 2pm at the Workers



Stewart James with mascots at Beef Week

Club, Lismore. Hosted by Dr Mehreen Faruqi MLC, the Greens' NSW transport spokesperson, it will include speakers such as Senator Lee Rhiannon and a rep from the Rail Bus and Train Union.

It's free to the public, so if you're concerned about the lack of transport and an integrated public transport system in our region please come along. We all need to engage in our democracy by expressing our expectations to politicians in order for things to change.

NEC AGM

I was pleased and honoured to recently be re-elected as NEC president for another year. The incumbent NEC committee was also re-elected. We all work co-operatively and creatively together, so I do believe this is a great outcome for NEC.

We look forward to serving the community and promoting positive action for the environment in the year ahead.

Thank you for your support.

Cedar point threat returns

by Binnah Pownell

After more than a two-year break, the Save Cedar Point action group has been forced to mobilise again after works on a proposed quarry on an Original Tribal Men's Initiation site were resumed recently. The group was formed in 2012 to help support the Githabul/Gallibal Elders in their concerns about the sacred site.

The Elders and SCP group maintains that proper procedure was not followed in events that came to approve a basalt quarry, right in the middle of a special and sacred (ab)Original men's initiation site, on the western side of Summerland Way at Omagh Road, a few kilometres south of Kyogle. In a practice that occurred for thousands of years on the hill that is now Cedar Point and only stopped a mere couple of hundred years ago, boys-turning-into-men made their first axe out of the basalt of the hill. As evidenced on scar trees that still dot the hill, the boys then used their newly made axe to make their own shields from the sapwood on the outside of the tree.

Previous excavations have shown that the hill actually holds water – amongst the rock and above the water table. There is another unique tribute to this unassuming hill. Although it is nestled in the flood plains of the Kyogle valley, there is an uninterrupted view of the sacred Wollumbin mountain from the top. It won't be visible

from that hill for much longer if the quarry goes ahead.

Rob Williams of the Githabul Elders was notified and consulted regarding the quarry in 2012. The Elders expressed their grave concerns at the time and were consequently totally gob-smacked when a very questionable approval was given for the site not long after, by the Joint Regional Planning Panel down in Sydney. The Githabul Elders on behalf of the Gullibal people are calling on the Gugin Guddaba Land Council in Kyogle and CEO Ron Randall to withdraw their cultural approval for the Cedar Point quarry site. They cite the fact that under Federal Law, local Land Councils are to consult with the Original Custodians of the area concerning business on the land. It is argued that they didn't do that sufficiently.

Also, the proponents, Grahams Quarries have already reputedly broken a condition of the development consent by not consulting with the 'Aboriginal stakeholders' while recently cutting out and concreting a wide road to the top of the hill. Who knows if any artefacts were disturbed when gouging out the road on the hill? Why wasn't there a cultural officer watching the road excavations? Already – before they are blowing up the hill, they are showing cultural insensitivity. After recent phone and email lobbying by supporters and concerned residents, the Kyogle Council has agreed to meet with the

Elders in Early June; though work has not stopped on the site.

This proposed quarry on a Men's Initiation site at Cedar Point is so wrong on many levels. Australia is a signatory to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which clearly states the Original (Indigenous) people's right to protect and preserve significant sites that are on country. To ignore the claims of the Githabul Elders also contravenes the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Many artefacts most probably still lie in the cow

paddock, under the grass and down in the gullies. No-one has really looked.

In a sane world, a place like this would be treasured and preserved by the society that now hosts the oldest culture on the planet. Since the Mabo case provided proof that this land was in fact already occupied by a Sovereign nation, white people (through the government) continue on as if nothing has changed. Where is the white man's 'proof of sale' papers of this land from the Original occupiers?

Some dedicated and determined people are not prepared to let this site go



the way of others – lost forever. They know that their great grandchildren will appreciate their visionary efforts to save this cultural treasure. If you want to be responsible for helping the Elders and conserving Cultural Heritage, contact your local

Environment Centre about this issue or join this Facebook page and keep in touch for future action. Meetings are also held regularly at the Cedar Point Hall grounds.

Go to: www.facebook.com/groups/150680028416640 or phone 0447-135-391 for info.

Community Planning Day in Nimbin cancelled

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Lismore City Council has cancelled its upcoming Community Planning Day in Nimbin, scheduled for 18th June.

Community Planning Days help Council find out about people's aspirations for the future in order to create Community Plans for different rural villages and communities.

Community Services Coordinator Casie Hughes thanked those people who had signed up for the days, and advised that they would be held later this year.

"We are so sorry to have to cancel the planning days, but on this occasion it is something we simply cannot avoid," she said. "We understand that people's time is precious and we did not make this decision lightly."

Casie assured people who had already signed up that they would be contacted once the days were rescheduled. She said new people would also be invited to join closer to the time through community advertising and articles in Council's fortnightly publication, *Local Matters*.



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22nd April 2016

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Authorised by J Elliot 107 Minjungbal Drive Tweed Heads South NSW 2486

Issues that matter



by Dawn Walker,
Greens candidate for Richmond

The upcoming federal election should be about genuine democratic reform, and not simply more pork barrelling from the major parties.

This election will be fought and won on the issues that matter – global warming, our right to clean air and water and restoring our democracy.

Nowhere is the broken nature of our democracy more obvious than with the threat of coal seam gas back on the agenda with the *Draft North Coast Regional Plan* and seven years jail for anyone who resists this

toxic industry. Added to this the Nationals have been caught spruiking CSG to overseas investors.

We want laws to end the influence of political donations and vested interests on political decision making, yet we still have no federal Independent Commission Against Corruption, despite the urgent and apparent need.

We have Labor and the Nationals voting together in parliament to support a giant coal mine on the Liverpool Plains; 24/7 surveillance through the tracking of our internet metadata; jailing of refugees in inhumane offshore jails; and locally, silence on the Gold Coast Airport contamination.

We need urgent action on climate change, yet the government is defunding the CSIRO, our world class scientific institution.

We need some courage and vision in politics and the Greens stand prepared at this election to show the Australian nation that politics can be better than this.

I'm going to keep speaking up for our region against vested interests and will work to bring decision making back to our community.

Labor will properly fund Medicare

Politicians are judged by what they say and the choices they make as well.

Over the past three years, we've seen the impact that Mr Hogan and the Turnbull National Government's choices have had on people's lives here in the Northern Rivers and around Australia.

Their choices have seen \$650 million cut from Medicare, the introduction of a GP-tax which will reduce the amount of doctors offering bulk-billing services, and plans to privatise Medicare payments, potentially forcing 1500 people out of jobs.

Their choices will see more patients paying higher fees to see their local doctor and paying more out of pocket costs for blood tests, x-rays, and scans, all the while choosing in the 2016 budget to give tax cuts to millionaires and big business.

What does this say about their philosophy?

When Medicare was first introduced by the Hawke Labor Government in 1984, it was with a simple

idea – everyone, no matter their income, no matter their background, deserves access to the healthcare they need, when they need it.

It's an idea that has seen our healthcare system become the envy of the world and an idea that I am saddened to see eroded by the current Federal Government.

It's an idea that stands at the heart of the Labor party's 'fair go for all' philosophy and guides the choices we make.

Labor believes it's your Medicare card, not your credit card that should determine your access to healthcare.

That's why a Shorten Labor Government will reverse the Liberal-Nationals cuts to Medicare and restore indexation of the Medicare Benefits Schedule from 1 January 2017, removing the GP Medicare freeze, that is costing the community.

Mr Hogan and the Turnbull National Government will tell you that we can't afford to properly fund Medicare; I



by Janelle Saffin,
Labor candidate for Page

say we can't afford not to. If they can give tax cuts to million dollar income earners of \$16,715.00, why not properly fund Medicare?

Mr Hogan has badly let the people of the Northern Rivers down by not standing up to fight for Medicare.

Instead of trying to defend the Governments attacks on Medicare, Mr. Hogan should be fighting to protect our health services and ensuring local people can access affordable healthcare.

This is an issue that is important to us all. It's an

issue that is too important for us not to fight for.

Whether you're a farmer, a nurse, a school teacher, pensioner, student, or unemployed we all need to access healthcare at some point in our lives.

That's why, when you go to the election booth on July 2, I ask that you consider this:

Is it fair that women in the Northern Rivers are forced to pay extra for essential services such as pap-smears, ultrasounds and mammograms because we chose to give millionaires a tax break?

Is it fair that mums and dads have to consider not taking their children to see the doctor because their local GP doesn't bulk bill while we allow big business to avoid paying their fair share of tax?

Mr Hogan and the Liberal National Government have sold out our region through their attack Medicare. We deserve better, and if elected, I will deliver better.

Contact Janelle at
jasaffin@nor.com.au or
phone 0418-664-001.



by Cr Jenny Dowell
Lismore City Council

Budget

The draft Imagine Lismore One Year Plan, commonly known as the Budget, is now on exhibition until June 14 for public comment. The total budget for the coming year is \$163 million. Our expenditure in the year ahead includes \$61.3 million in capital works including an upgrade to the South Lismore Treatment Plant, roadworks, water main replacement, the Quadrangle and gallery and waste sorting machines.

Excluding capital grants and developer contributions, the result is a \$3.447 million surplus. This surplus, while being the largest in recent memory, along with further such surpluses in the coming years, are required to ensure future replacement costs for our ageing infrastructure can be funded.

One of the reasons why Lismore City Council was found to be Fit for the Future and not forced to merge with any other Council was because we have a long term financial plan for the next 4 years. The plan requires us to

From the mayor's desk

save approximately \$4 million in each of those years so the steadily improving financial position will continue to require prudent spending and tough decisions.

Rates

Fees and charges for the coming year will generally increase by CPI or for some Council services by the amount that reflects actual costs to Council. Water and Wastewater charges fall into the latter category and will, on the typical household bill, increase by 5.8% or 5.9%. Integrated waste charges will typically increase by 2.19%.

The general rate levied on all properties is pegged by the state government to a 1.8% increase.

SRV Biodiversity

On May 17 we were advised that our application for a Special Rate Variation of 1.8% to fund biodiversity projects was successful. This means that the typical residential bill, taking into account both the SRV and the 1.8% rate peg on general rates will rise by an average of \$42. The \$500,000 raised from the SRV each year will go to biodiversity programs and will not be used to supplement other Council activities.

Cubes

While the Cubes development is still being examined by staff, associated with the development, there was an application to our Traffic committee to relocate the bus bay five metres north of its current position on Cullen Street to improve sight distances. We also asked Roads and Maritime

Services to assess the appropriate speed limit for the pedestrian areas in Nimbin. Council endorsed both decisions of the committee.

Nimbin water supply

A report on the result of preliminary investigation of the reduced scope of works as adopted by Council in April has been received from GHD, the engineers engaged by Council. This report has been considered by the project team and the scope of works clarified. Instructions have been issued to GHD to proceed with preparing a new concept design and concept design report.

Construction of a section of the new reticulation main in Tuntable Falls and Gungas Roads has been brought forward to coincide with proposed road reconstruction works in the vicinity of the intersection of these two roads. A detailed design of this section of the main is being prepared. Depending on the availability of construction contractors, this work is planned to commence prior to road works. If necessary, water main construction will be undertaken in conjunction with road works.

MardiGrass

By all accounts, last month's MardiGrass was a great success with good crowds and weather. Council staff have no major concerns with traffic, parking, food handling, camping or other matters, however we have received some complaints about loud and offensive hip-hop performances on the basketball court above Peace Park. The debrief that is held after each MardiGrass

will take place in mid-June, so we will have the opportunity to consider all feedback from organisers, community groups, Police, Council and businesses.

Tuntable Falls Community School

Last month I had the pleasure of revisiting Tuntable Falls Community School for the official opening of the new classroom. It was lovely to see the kitchen garden and have a tour of the school hosted by students. The new classroom, funded by a Federal Government grant and opened by Kevin Hogan MP, is the most beautiful learning space imaginable with a huge deck and a sun filled north-facing floor space inside. It truly is an example of good partnerships with input from local designers, Jazz Constructions as builders and work undertaken by parents and community.

Pacific highway signage

At the end of the month, we are meeting with representatives of the Pacific Highway upgrade about roadworks and signage. I'm pleased that the temporary yellow sign on the highway north of Ewingsdale has been made more prominent to alert drivers from the north that they need to turn off if they want to access Lismore and villages via Bangalow Road. Earlier in the month Roads and Maritime Services released its plan for improvements of Bangalow Road. These improvements will realign some sections of the road, create more overtaking opportunities and remove some rutting. Comments on the plan closed at the end of May.

Election

It has been no secret that I will not be recontesting the next local government election which has now been confirmed for 10 September for non-amalgamating councils. That means that I only have three more columns of the *GoodTimes* to write. I sincerely hope that the new mayor continues the communications that have developed through both the *GoodTimes* and Nimbin HookUps on Facebook. All members of our communities expect council to communicate clearly, in a timely fashion and with openness on all matters pertaining to its activities. Although the federal election is filling our minds for now, I urge you to think about the council you want to see on September 10.

Eau Claire

This month I'm flying off to Eau Claire, Wisconsin for 10 days to participate in the official opening of The Lismore Hotel. Eau Claire and Lismore have been sister cities since 2001 but the relationship has been largely dormant until early last year. Four young business people from Eau Claire with interests in IT bought a derelict 5-6 storey hotel and wondered what to name it. A Wikipedia search alerted them to the sister city link and the rest is history.

The four visited Lismore in 2014 and spent the day with me. We toured the city and they saw old editions of *The Northern Star*. Subsequently there is a feature wall in all guest rooms with wallpaper of old *Northern Stars*. On 24 June The Lismore opens with great fanfare. While I'm there I'll also be meeting their female council president, Kerry Kincaid.

Simon says...



by Simon Clough,
Deputy mayor, LCC

The Nimbin fire site

A number of people have expressed concerns about redevelopment of this site and the issue of parking. Of particular concern seems to be the proposed backpacker hostel in the centre of town.

I believe that it's high time that Council organised a consultation with the community and the developers about this site and the vision for the centre of the village. This is a critical issue that could decide the future of the village for the future.

New era of environmental collaboration

Last week the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's decided to allow Lismore City Council to raise an additional \$500,000 in rates for environmental projects under the Biodiversity Management Strategy.

In our major consultation 'Imagine Lismore', our community told us directly that the environment was its number one priority. We are now in a position to deliver on that priority, unlike our previous position where less than 0.5% of Council's budget was spent on protecting our area, one of the most biodiverse areas in NSW.

What excites me most about this initiative is that it is a radical change from the approach to urban and rural landholders that Council has taken in the past. Under that approach there was only Council telling landholders what to do and penalising them for non-compliance. Council is now in a position to work "hand

in hand" with landholders. Council already has the 'Rural Landholder Initiative' which gives landholders grants to improve the functioning of their farms through environmental improvement. The new money will expand this type of initiative.

Once we get Council's approval of the budget, we can get on with the exciting business of implementing the projects contained in the Biodiversity Management Strategy, such as:

- Cleaning up our roadsides with weed management in high conservation value areas.
- Assistance for community groups to restore natural areas.
- Riverbank restoration in rural and urban areas.
- Helping landholders to manage weeds and restore natural areas on rural and urban properties.
- More conservation of biodiversity in the Lismore Local Government Area, including restoring koala habitat.
- Better management of urban bushland reserves and more nature-based recreation in the urban setting.
- More recognition and reward for good stewardship of the land and environment.

In addition, the new funding will give Council great leverage in applying for matching environmental grants which should significantly increase available funds. Council recently received an unexpected grant of \$100,000 for koala projects in the NW of the local government area.

I believe that the amount of the rate increase is very reasonable. On average, urban residents will pay \$24 per year towards implementing the Biodiversity Management Strategy, while the average rural resident will pay \$30 per year, and the average farmland resident will pay \$48 pa.

Please keep an eye on Council's *Local Matters* newsletter and Council's website: www.lismore.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/home.asp for information on projects which will be getting underway from 1st July 2016.

Please contact me re any Council issues on 0428-886-217 or: simonclough@internode.on.net

Omen of the vote



Return of the Loon

by Laurence Axtens

I can't read tea leaves nor even the entrails of small unsuspecting animals, but I don't need to see a child's head spin 360 degrees to know an omen

when I'm looking at one.

When our motherless PM called the election it was Mother's Day, and in a stunning tactical miscalculation it was also the tenth anniversary of the end of the Beaconsfield mine disaster when a union leader by the name of Bill Shorten rose to national prominence.

The fates are hard at work here, Turnbull seemed all at sea in the only televised debate so far. Now he's so desperate he has even thrown the racist card on the table. The conservative press is fighting valiantly for their champions, but the Liberals stagger forward from acts of economic injustice to utterances of ignorant bigotry. Middle

Page: a beautiful part of the world

by Kevin Hogan, MP for Page

It was great to visit Tuntabla Falls Primary School last month to open its new multi-purpose classroom. The Australian Government provided \$250,000 in funding for the classroom.

The school has the best vegetable garden I have seen at a school. Lots of parent involvement and community engagement. Congratulations to all involved.

I was recently joined by Rural Health Minister Fiona Nash. We announced almost \$6 million to combat the drug issue in our community.

Our North Coast Primary Health Network will be working with local organisations to provide specifically designed programs. It will include preventive, rehabilitation and other measures.

I spoke in Parliament last month about our measures to get multi-nationals to pay their fair share of tax.

We are going to collect nearly \$4 billion over the next four years by the measures we have introduced in the budget - money that can be spent on health, education and other infrastructure projects.

More than 7600 households across the Northern Rivers who live outside the NBN's Fixed wireless and fixed-line service can begin to connect to affordable, high-speed broadband following the launch of the Sky Muster satellite network.

This is great news for people living in communities like Nimbin. For more information on eligibility and retailers



visit: www.nbnco.com.au or freecall NBN on 1800-687-626

I am happy the Government acted on my concerns, and those of my Nationals colleagues, and agreed to rethink the introduction of the Backpacker Tax.

Our farmers face ongoing challenges to secure an adequate workforce to pick the blueberries, harvest macadamias, process meat and milk cows.

The proposal to introduce the tax will now be reviewed as part of a larger review of workforce shortages faced by the agriculture and tourism industries. It will report by October.

Last week I announced grants totally more than \$100,000 for our local Landcare groups to encourage sustainable farming and improve our natural environment.

We live in a beautiful part of the world with a unique environment. It is important that we protect our environment for generations to come.

More to debate than just tax reform

by Kudra Falla-Ricketts
Greens candidate for Page

One of the main focuses this election is tax reform. But while the government keeps cutting public services like schools and hospitals, claiming that we all need to do the "heavy lifting", they're still wasting billions of dollars in tax breaks to mining companies and big businesses.

Currently, Australia is wasting \$16.1 billion through the diesel fuel discount for big miners to buy cheaper fuel and 98 of the 321 companies earning more than \$200 million a year, paid no tax in 2012-13. Plus, in the government's budget there are still \$5.6 billion in subsidies being handed out to fossil fuel companies.

So why is the government continuing to cut public services from the Australian people, but wasting billions on big corporations and dirty coal companies that are threatening our climate future? Could it possibly have something to do with the fact that over the past three years, the coalition has accepted \$2.4 million and Labor has accepted \$1.1 million in political donations from fossil fuel companies?

With mining companies slipping dirty dollars into the back pockets of our major party politicians, it's no wonder they're getting so much money in subsidies and aren't being forced to pay their fair share of tax. These political donations fund their expensive ad campaigns and bankroll members being elected.

What this means it that too many of our politicians have vested interest when making decisions in parliament. They're not trying to improve our taxation system, because that would put them in the bad books with their

Australia is on the move, they're dusting off their red ties and shelving their blue speedos and many, more than ever before, have purchased a new green scarf to ward off the winter chills.

If I divine correctly, and barring no 'children overboard deception' just before the vote, there will be a change of government. So if you are going to



best friends the mining companies. In fact, they're so close that at least 27 past Liberal, National and Labor politicians went on to work for fossil fuel companies after their political careers were over.

If we put an end to political donations from fossil fuel companies and big corporations, we can make sure that our government is making decisions with everyday Australians in mind, rather than basing their choices on whether it's going to make their mining company sponsors angry and shrink their campaign budget.

The Greens have the solution. We have been leading by example by not taking any donations from fossil fuel companies, but the major parties continue to accept this dirty money and we think it's time for a change. Which is why we have legislation before the Australian parliament to ban political donations from fossil fuel companies, property developers, tobacco, liquor and gambling industries.

This legislation would mean the parliament would no longer have vested interests, would no longer

vote Labor make it a preference vote. If they are elected in their own right they will revert to conservative post poll as they have done ever since Bob Hawke first pulled his earlobe and said, "Ahhhhh well."

A Green vote will enshrine penalty rates, force the transition to a renewable energy economy and secure public health and education.

have a barrier to implementing a fairer taxation system, and instead of cutting funding to our pensions, our hospitals and our schools, we could be collecting the money we need from mining companies and big business, and our communities wouldn't have to suffer.

While some individual MPs have assured us that they agree with our policy, and want to end political donations, the fact is that in parliament, major party MPs are forced to vote along party lines. This means that if their party decides that they want to keep their mining dollars, the MP will have to vote against the Greens legislation, they don't get a say. Which is why the Greens are the only safe option if you want clean politics.

This election, you have the power to send a strong message to our major parties. By speaking out against political donations, and by voting green on July 2, you can let the major parties know that Australians won't support them if they continue to let fossil fuel donations influence their decisions.

A vote for the Greens is a vote to sure up Labor's labour values, letting them govern in their own right will only disappoint.

Remember preferences are vital this time around, and you're in charge of how they flow. At the very least, number six boxes above the line on the senate ballot. They don't ask us often - make your vote count.

Female Aboriginal Community Worker

(Section 14D of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977)
Part time position 15 hours per week
 SCHCADS Level 3

Purpose of Position: to continue the delivery and development of services for and with older Aboriginal people, Aboriginal people with disabilities and their carers in the Nimbin area; working as part of the Nimbin Aged Care & Respite Services team, supported by the Nimbin Health & Welfare management committee.

Essential Job Requirements:

- Aboriginality
- Experience of working in and with community members
- Demonstrated oral, written and computer skills
- Experience in developing and delivering activities programs
- Demonstrated ability to work as part of a team
- Ability to work independently as required
- Current Drivers Licence

Closing date: Monday 20th June 2016

To request the application pack:

email: jenny@nacrs.com.au

phone Jenny: 02 6689 1709

OR to download the pack go to 'Aged Care & Respite' at:

www.nimbincommunity.org.au

PO Box 20567 Nimbin NSW 2480

ABN: 18 327 592 990

In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

www.nnic.org.au



Life beyond the Feed in Tariff

Nimbin Town Hall, Sunday 24th July. An info session for community members with grid-feed PV solar arrays to help you plan for the end of the 60c Feed In Tariff.

NNIC Strategic Planning Day

Saturday 9th July at NNIC. NNIC members are welcome to come along and have input into our strategic directions. If you are a member and want to come along please contact Nat at NNIC. Space is limited.

Nimbin food equipment muster

Yehaaa! It's time to muster up all the food library gear and get it into NNIC so we can do an equipment audit, check everything is in good working order, and sort out the library in general.

If you have any of the gear out can you please please and pretty please round it up and herd it into the Neighbourhood Centre this week. (note... not Blue Knob Hall... please bring into us on Cullen Street in Nimbin). If you know anyone who has any of the gear, can you do us a fave and ask them to crack their whips and get their gear into NNIC urgently.

Once the gear is all cleaned and checked it will be relocating to Sibley Street and borrowing will happen via the NNIC front desk. We will send info to all library members in due course.

Northern Rivers Biohubs

See our website (Energy section) for the latest infographics.

Seniors

Did you know that seniors are the fastest-growing age group in Australia? (www.abc.net.au/news/2013-12-18/fastest-growing-age-group-is-65-and-over-abs-says/5164202). Over 14 per cent of our population is aged 65 or older, and that rate is expected to continue to grow over the next several years. See our website for some excellent health links for seniors and carers.

Enova

If you are a shareholder keep your eyes peeled for your invitation to switch to Enova as your new energy retailer. They are starting off with shareholders to trial the new retail business.

Volunteer jobs

Are you looking for a way to contribute to the community? Maybe you are retired and want to keep using your skills, or maybe you are a young person looking to gain some new skills. Or perhaps you need to do work for the dole or fulfil a mutual obligation, for Centrelink? We have quite a few volunteer positions available:

- **Sustainability Alley 2016 (Nimbin Annual Country Show)**
Coordinator: perfect for anyone who has done e.g. Events Management and wants to build on their CV.
- **Sibley Street Fundraising Co-ordinator:** we are looking for someone to help us raise the \$70,000 needed to rescue the old house.
- **Sibley Street gardener:** we are looking for someone to garden at Sibley street at least once a month to conquer the evil

weeds and start beautifying the site with some flower gardens.

- **Art in the Park:** we are looking for some arty/crafty people to join Gilbert in the park on Fridays to undertake arts and crafts activities for the general public.
- **NNIC Management Committee:** NNIC is a vibrant organisation doing lots of interesting stuff and behind it all is the Management Committee. This involves a commitment of three hours a month for the regular meetings which are usually on a Wednesday at 5.30pm. Plus there is plenty to do depending on your interest, availability and choice. If you are interested in any of the above positions, contact Nat or Guy at NNIC.

Community Drug Action Team

CDAT is also looking for new members to help us implement a variety of harm minimisation strategies arising from the survey we did last year. At the moment meetings are generally once per month at NNIC for about two hours on a Thursday at 1pm, but this is flexible depending on the needs of the members.

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) is run by locals for locals and our job is to support people in need and the community in general to achieve their aspirations. Everyone is welcome at NNIC. If we can't help we probably know who can. You can also find lots of useful local and other info on our website. For appointments call 6689-1692 or just drop in between 10am and 4pm weekdays.

Nimbin Optical
6689 0081

Full Eye Health Checks for diabetes, glaucoma, macular degeneration, cataracts, retinal lesions.

Relief from eyestrain, computer fatigue and visual headaches.

Vision Exercises to correct binocular, visual processing and development issues.

Tina Fuller
OPTOMETRIST

Quality Diagnosis
 Honest Advice

66 Cullen Street Nimbin
 Next to Real Estate

STILL OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

This iconic Nimbin Café is now under new management...



...and continues to welcome everyone in Nimbin

NIMBIN NUMBERS

- Book-keeping – Mobile service avail.
- Tax Preparation
- Business Activity Statements – Electronically lodged BAS Agent: 98777003
- Tax returns lodged for Centrelink recipients

Phone Jayne 0457-497-011
 Email: jayne@nimbintax.com.au

LEGAL NOTICE

Estate of the late Alan Frakes
 If **HELGA BENNETT** gets in touch with us she will learn something to her advantage.

NIMBIN LAW
 50C Cullen Street
 NIMBIN 2480

Tel: (+61) 02 6689 1003
 Fax: (+61) 02 6689 0500
 Email: dspain@spains.com.au

Did you know?
 All our links are clickable in the web edition. Visit www.nimbingoodtimes.com and click away!

Nimbin Hospital Information

Child immunisation clinic

For 0-5 year olds. Held on the second Tuesday of every month. Next clinic 9th June. For appointments, phone 6620-7687 (Lismore Community Health Centre).

Early childhood nurse

Every Tuesday. For appointments phone 6620-7687 (Lismore Community Health Centre).

Women's health nurse services

Third Thursday of the month, next clinic 16th June. Confidential service, pap smears, breast checks, contraceptive advice, post-natal checks, general health information. Phone 6688-2401 to make an appointment.

Nimbin community nurses

Monday to Friday, 8am to 4.30pm. Phone 6689-1288. For assessments, wound care, referrals, advocacy, provision of palliative care in the home and co-ordinate of Aged Care packages.

Wound clinic

New service run by community nurses every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning. Referrals from Nimbin Hospital, GPs, self-referral. For self-referral, phone 6689-1288.

Nurse Practitioner Community Clinics

- **Diabetes Clinic:** 3rd Thursday of the month, next is 21st June.
- **Respiratory Clinic:** 2nd Tuesday of the month, next is 14th June. Phone 6630-0488 for appointments.

Free health checks

In front of the Neighbourhood Centre every second Friday, 11.30am – 1.30pm. Cardiac, Diabetic and Stroke risk assessments, run by a Nurse Practitioner and a Registered Nurse. Smoking Cessation advice and assistance. Weight, blood pressure, oxygen sats, BSL, cholesterol levels. Referrals to appropriate Health Professional, if required.

Cannabis clinic

Every Monday. Confidential counselling. Phone 1300-664-098 or 0427-465-708.

Drug and alcohol counsellor/psychologist

Every Thursday. For appointment, phone 6620-7634 or mobile 0428-109-474.

Nimbin NSP

Open Monday to Thursday, 9.30am-12pm. Arrangements can be made to see a Community Health Nurse.

Health advice line

Phone 1800-022-222 if you have a health issue. It's a 24-hour, seven days a week free service. A registered nurse will assess whether you need to go to the emergency department at your MPS.

Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month in the hospital conference room at 10am. Next is 10th June.

NIMBIN SOLAR INFO SESSION

Advice for the end of the 60c Solar Feed in tariff & Batteries on the Grid

NNIC has organised a free information session at the **Nimbin Town Hall** on **Sunday 24th of July** starting at **10:15am** and finishing at **12PM noon** with Q&A at the end.

For further details or to RSVP email guy@nnic.org.au or call 6689 1692



Firey donation

Nimbin RFS brigade is the fortunate recipient of a generous donation of equipment by the Lifestyle Real Estate agency.

Deputy Captain, Charlie Cohen explained, "What they bought us are two new hand-held GPS mappers. Our old one died and we really needed a hand-held replacement.

"Two are even better, because we can send one at a time home with our active brigade members to keep them up to date, while still having one ready in the truck." The fireys at Nimbin are all very grateful.

Gig raises \$3000 towards Zeb's recovery

The fundraiser benefit event for Zeb Wright-Cheah and his family, held at the Bush Theatre on 15th April, was a huge success. A buffet dinner and an evening of musical entertainment was enjoyed by 75 people in the Phoenix Rising Café courtyard, with a further 40 or so arriving later for the bands performing on the internal theatre stage. There was also a multi-draw raffle of many fabulous prizes donated by members of the community.

Huge thanks to everyone who made this possible – those who attended on the night, those who donated prizes, those who purchased raffle tickets, those who entertained us wonderfully on the night, those who did plenty behind the scenes and contributed in ways too numerous to list... and Phoenix Rising staff who worked without pay on the night and in preparation for the event.

Nimbin always shines bright when the community needs it most, and this event



Mecha Mecha perform
Photo: Mel Williamson

was no exception. In excess of \$3000 was raised by the event and passed on to Zeb's family via the special bank account that was set up for his recovery. Further funds were donated by café customers into the charity bucket on the counter of Phoenix Rising Café and given directly to

his family.

A big thankyou to you all, and we wish Zeb and his family all the best with his ongoing recovery.

For further info call venue proprietor, David Hyett on (02) 6689-0095 or 0418-824-598.

Activities for elders and carers



Device expert Paris Naday helping Ludmilla get the most out of her tablet in one of 10 free Device Advice sessions recently held for seniors, an NACRS initiative in partnership with the Nimbin Community School.

Nimbin Social Groups every Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9.30am-1pm at Bottlebrush Studio, Nimbin, with morning tea and light lunch.

The Channon Social Group: Thursday 23rd June, 11.30am-2pm, the Channon Pub for lunch, all welcome, phone for info.

Koonorigan Social Group: Monday 27th June, 11.30am-3pm, Bring a Plate Lunch, Koonorigan Hall. All welcome, phone for info.

Monthly Bus Outing: Tuesday 14th June to Three Blue Ducks Café at The Farm, Byron for morning tea and the Middle Pub in Mullumbimby for lunch. Relax and enjoy our beautiful region. Phone for more info.

Home visits for some company or giving carers a break, phone to discuss your needs and to find out more.

Drop-In at Bottlebrush Studio, Nimbin, Monday-Friday 10am-2pm, for a cuppa, a chat, internet, computer, a quiet sit down.

Phone 6689-1709 for more info or look for us on Facebook.

Get involved with your local hospital

BUNK HEALTH NEWS

by Noelle Lynden-Way

It has been a great education attending the Quality & Safety Committee each month. I have learned a lot and realized the importance of the average person having an input into a health services professional committee.

I understand much more how the MPS facilities are managed and met many members of staff. Much of what I have learned I have written about in the regular BUNK column published in local newspapers.

There is definitely a move by Local Health Districts and the NSW Government to involve members of the community more and to get feedback and ideas from them about their experiences with health services generally. The aim is always to improve the quality of services and experience for the consumers.

Each of the MPS in the Northern Rivers has their own Community Consultation Committee which meets every three months. I encourage you to think about becoming a member of one of these committees.

The Urbenville MPS committee started in 2014 and Kyogle and Nimbin around the same time. If you would like to join the Community Consultation Committee at your local MPS or would like further information about what is involved, call Nancy Martin, chairperson on 6632-1522.

In the near future a one-day training workshop will be held in the Northern Rivers which is designed to introduce participants to the role of consumer engagement in the context of the NSW Health system. The program will be facilitated by an experienced trainer from HCNSW and is suitable for both new and existing community/consumer committee members.

Consumers may be users of health services, or a carer, or family member of someone using health services. It is your experience and perspective which is most relevant, and the aim is to have a diverse group participating. If you would like to discuss this further, please phone Murray Spriggs on 0438-882-817.

This is a free training workshop and lunch and travel reimbursement will be provided by the Northern NSW Local Health District.

The one-day course will be held:

- Monday 18th July, 9.30am – 4pm at Ballina Surf Club, Lighthouse Parade, Ballina
- Tuesday 19th July, 9.30am – 4pm at Tweed Civic Centre, 17 Brett Street, Tweed Heads

To register, phone (02) 9986-1082 or register online at: www.hcnsw.org.au/pages/hcnsw-consumer-rep-1-day-training-program-northern-nsw.html

Chamber chat



by Teresa Biscoe, President

The Nimbin Chamber of Commerce will be holding its next general members meeting at Nimbin Central School, 5.30pm on Wednesday 15th June.

The school is keen to speak to the Chamber and its members about how to work in partnership with the school to offer placements for students, and how the new grant achieved by the school can benefit the community as well.

We also would like to canvas members around development issues in Nimbin including the newly

proposed telecommunications tower, the under awning street and mural lighting project, parking plans and issues, and current major development applications (Cubes, Museum and Rainbow sites). A light supper will be available after the event.

We invite all current members to attend, as your feedback is important to us and determines our responses to council in these matters. If you are not currently a member and would like to be, membership applications will be available at the meeting and we are always happy to take new members.

NAG update

The Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG) was formed in 2010 to improve consultation and communications between Lismore City Council and the Nimbin community.

The role of NAG is to advise Council as to when and how it should consult with the community on issues which may impact on Nimbin, before decisions are made. NAG does NOT claim to represent the community on the issues themselves, and does NOT make decisions on behalf of the community.

It is comprised of 10 community members who meet with Lismore City Council representatives on a quarterly basis. The Chair and secretarial role is provided by Council (currently Chaired by Mayor Jenny Dowell) and meetings are held in Nimbin.

The NAG met on 13th May and the next meeting is in August.

NAG membership

The term for Council's Advisory Groups and Advisory Panels is four years to coincide with each Council term. Now that a date has been set down for the Council elections in September, NAG memberships will be considered in the October meeting by the new Council. The recently received EOIs will be considered then, together with any further EOIs submitted in September, when the current term of all members comes to an end.

Yet another tower

NAG members raised concerns that Optus is now searching for a location to erect yet another tower in the community and co-location needs to be addressed between Telstra, Optus and NBN. The NAG requests that Council facilitate this. No DA has been lodged with Council to date.

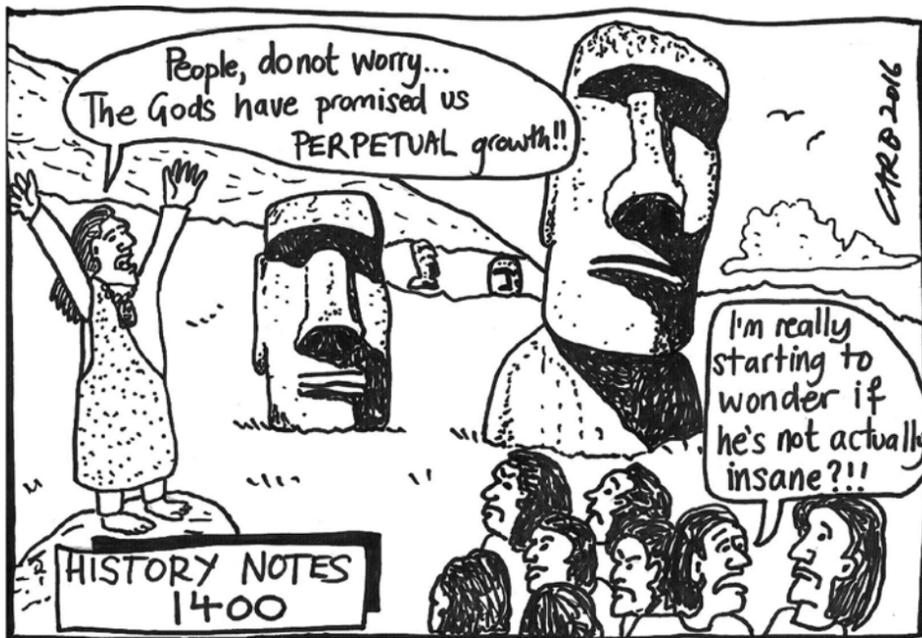
Sustainable Nimbin Community Plan (SNCP)

There are quite a few strategies involving either NAG or Council or both as the nominated drivers and or partners. Many of them do not involve funding needs but rather planning or other support (e.g. erecting signs on Council owned land). These will be compiled into one list for consideration at the first meeting of the new NAG term after September this year.

Community Planning Workshops in Jiggi and Nimbin have been postponed until later in the year.

Other issues discussed:

- MardiGrass debrief planned for – NAG members advised it would be easier for community members to participate if this was held in Nimbin rather than Lismore (whilst acknowledging it is easier for Council staff and Police if held in Lismore);
- Nimbin DCP and DAs – NAG members are seeking to have the Nimbin DCP applied to all future DAs, and any departure from the DCP amounts to a variation of it and should only occur with rigorous community consultation;
- Nimbin Car Parking survey – a survey was conducted of the village by Council in response to The Cubes DA and concerns around the lack of on-site parking included in the proposed development. The NAG recommended that the survey results and any subsequent recommendations go on public exhibition for community feedback.
- The Waste Transfer Station upgrades are nearly completed and feedback has been positive. NAG advised that promotions about the upgraded facility including the fee structure and what goods can be taken to the transfer station in the Nimbin area would be beneficial.



MardiGrass camping

At this recent MardiGrass, it was my privilege to spend some time working at the Nimbin Showgrounds assisting with the camping of visitors. It provided me with a great insight into the work of the Showground managing committee.

The A&I volunteers helping out there warmly greeted all visitors, both national and international, with great friendliness and provided helpful information about the village and the region. Great frontline PR for the local tourist trade. Working under the guidance of Neville Plush and Phil Williams, they provided campers with a delightful camping experience: a relaxed and peaceful atmosphere, great facilities, a firm but appropriate effective operating overview that minimised rowdiness and personal intrusion into other people's enjoyment – even making available firewood for campfires. Perfecto!

For many visitors it was a one-off magical rural camping experience, with well over a thousand campers being accommodated, and quite possibly a highlight of their visit. Not only that, it also provided much welcome income for the Showground's folk who have been steadily building excellent facilities making this a fine self-sufficient venue available to the local community. Very impressive.

The involvement and co-operation of the Showground's group were surely instrumental in helping make this event, MardiGrass, the absolute delight that it was.

Personally for me, working with people whom I'd been at odds with in the local range wars of the 1990s, I was provided with a warm welcome and shown gracious and unconditional friendliness. I sincerely am very thankful to all concerned and was grateful for this opportunity to build some cross-cultural bridges.

Bob Hopkins
New England

Pilliga tour praised

We are writing in praise of the excellent Nimbin Environment Centre and specifically their recent tour of the Pilliga and Leard Forests. We cannot recommend this tour highly enough.

Being lovers of wild places and forests in particular, it was a real treat to see some of the highlights of the 'million wild acres' of the Pilliga, the largest temperate woodland west of the Great Dividing Range and one of Australia's most biodiverse areas and the twenty thousand acre Leard Forest, the largest remnant of native bush on the Liverpool Plains, identified as a Tier 1 biodiversity area by the NSW government.

The Pilliga is home to one thousand native plant and three hundred native animal species, about fifty of which are officially classified as threatened or endangered. The Pilliga Koala is an example; numbers have plummeted from an estimated ten to twenty thousand koalas to less than a hundred, in the last twenty years! How tragic.

Optional parts of our tour included visiting the self-regulated Santos CSG operations in the isolated Pilliga Forest: 24-hour gas flares, radioactive spill sites, dead zones – informative and eye-opening. A guide took us to a hill to look down on the gigantic overburden spill of the Whitehaven coal mine and the massive clear felling and chipping of endangered Grassy White Box woodland, prime Koala habitat, in the Leard Forest. We felt like a couple of hobbits looking down on Mordor.

The highlight of the tour for us was in meeting the few dedicated people who do everything they can to protect the forests. From farmers, landowners, ecologists, activists, the Gomeroi people, etc. All were inspiring in their strength, passion and commitment.

Take the Pilliga tour and see for yourself. We are all a part of our

environment, our health depends on its health. Please support your local Environment Centre.

Christopher Bark
and **Tori Bail,**
Kyogle

Hats off for Karl

We send to you all who knew and were a huge part of our brother Karl Langheinrich's life, a warm and blessed thank you from us all for all the kindness and care shown to us, and the heartfelt comfort you all gave us at his funeral and service at Djanbung Gardens and his kindred friends at the Oasis Cafe on 24th February.

While in Nimbin, we all felt so much love and happy tales of our brother and the turn-out at the service and later at the wake at his and Wendy's home was so lovely. The folk who overwhelmed us all with the organising of all that was needed for such a huge occasion was beautiful. We can only send on to all of you, so many and you will know who you are, we certainly won't forget it and wish everyone who we met and came for the day also, Wendy's close friends and some now I have come to know, all the folk in Nimbin and the NNIC etc.

He was but one person, but to us he was our big brother and we three had many funny, sad and happy times with Karl over all those years. His mother Anna was the proudest of him and she was whole again when she was at long last able to get him to Australia... a long but too painful story for him and us all as it affected us as well, he as always, the most.

We all went onwards and upwards and we four were as close as siblings can be. He worried about us over the years, and so he really was an elder brother in all terms.

The day we popped into the Oasis on the way to the airport and home was so lovely for us, his gypsy music was still playing and kind folk there sat with us and we talked and had a coffee to remember Karl.

Nimbin time



There are many times I drive into our thriving little town and want a comforting check on the time... I scramble through my bag looking for my phone for a time-check, changing gears at the same time and thinking, "Wouldn't it be great if there was a clock to glance at right now."

I know: I could wear a watch! But I reckon a chiming big clock face would be charming on Nimbin's main street.

I'm visualising it imbedded high up into the outside of the Town Hall wall. Preferably chiming on the hour!

Louise Mehta
Nimbin

Letters to the editor

NGT welcomes letters by email or post by deadline. Letters longer than 300 words may be cut. Letters already published elsewhere will usually not be considered. Include full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Opinions expressed remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of NGT.

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NEXT DEADLINE:
Wednesday 29th June

Email nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

Weed proofing

With the finding of the World Health Organisation that glyphosate is a suspected carcinogen, the tendency in the society is to look for more benign ways of killing weeds.

The situation of weeds, like the situation of human illness, is not primarily overcome by respectively killing weeds or bacteria or viruses. In both cases, with weeds and disease, the situation is improved by strengthening immune systems.

Immunity from roadside weeds that cuts out roadside spraying is twofold: firstly roadsides are planted to native fig trees that eventually throw a canopy across roads, cutting out grasses. A good example of this can be seen immediately west of the Ewingsdale Hall on the side of the old Pacific Highway.

Secondly, Councils allocate part of their roadside maintenance programs that currently involve spraying and slope mowing to spot, experimental, horticultural responses where plantings are low enough to allow visibility of roadside reflector marker posts. These plantings or seedlings require resilience to duplicate themselves and outcompete local weeds. Experimentation is required here for different conditions will require different approaches.

An example of preferred plantings crowding out weeds is *Lomandra longifolia* which can be planted so their mature growth fronds touch longitudinally along roads. At the same time they can be "set" so their mature fronds

drape to cover say, the bottom 15cms of a white marker post. The comparative shade tolerance of *Lomandra* may ensure it survives with fig tree canopy closure. Chemical-free landcare groups can be co-opted to aid this work.

This is in accord with 21st century modernity where humans go more into nature rather than continually set themselves apart from it with technology dependence.

Geoff Dawe
(Chemical-free bush regen consultant for Byron Environment Centre), Uki

Lights out

Our Moon is seen as the primary symbol of the weaving mysteries in ancient mythologies.

The Naiads are moon-spinners who spin the Moon's light down into the sea... you can meet them walking along the paths at night. Their task is to see that Mother Earth is getting her hours of darkness.

They do this by spinning the Moon out of the sky and on to their spindles... then go out to sea in the dark and wash their "wool" (Moon's rays). As it floats to the surface, the wool is wound onto the ball of the Moon and slowly light returns.

I'm wondering what the moon spinners are doing. Can they still achieve Mother Earth's necessary hours of darkness while electricity circumnavigates Mother Earth.

I am imagining now that all over our globe we will begin again (returning) by assisting Mother Earth in her necessary hours of darkness and thereby ours and all life.

RIP Robin Sime

25-4-1944 – 8-5-2016
Robin died in Nimbin Hospital following a long and painful illness. He is now free of pain and we hope flying high in the Spitfire of his dreams.

Robin came to Nimbin in 1984 from England. He grew up in Maidstone, Kent, and was an engineer by trade, and served in the British Army in his younger adult years.

He lived at Websters Creek Community for 32 years and has spent many hours in the cafes of Nimbin, playing guitar and singing his songs. He was an avid gardener and was in past years often seen riding his Norton motorbike.

He is survived by his children, Sean, Sharron and Anuna.



by Helen Simpson

Poor Nepal... as if an earthquake isn't enough, then monsoon and landslides, a cold winter in temporary dwellings and a politically motivated blockade of essential food, gas and petrol at the Indian border for nearly six months.

This not only meant very little rebuilding in the mountain villages near the epicentre but with no gas, people had to cut down more trees for cooking. Hence more denudement of the land, more landslides and an economy struggling.

I recently visited the village of Baruwa, a village totally devastated by the earthquake a year ago. A lot of people perished and I am fundraising to help rebuild 50 houses out of 220 of the poorest people. These people are subsistence farmers (rice, vegetables, goats and chickens) with little or no income.

Most people I spoke to had lost someone (no trauma support or counselling), are still living in temporary dwellings (tarps over makeshift shelters) and the road has only just reopened after landslides. Which meant people had to walk six hours to the nearest town for supplies and to school. Very little rebuilding has eventuated, the government has distributed modules for rebuilding and lists of houses needing to be rebuilt, but that is all.

I have consulted these and liaised with the village secretary and elders regarding assisting rebuilding and materials required include cement, steel rods, sand and gravel (to be brought up by truck from nearby Melamchi, two hours away) and using recycled stone and wood. About \$4000 per house.

I have set up a joint bank account with two elders from the village and have a Nepalese counterpart who is monitoring the situation and doing a survey of the most needy. Our bank account is with Summerland Credit Union (BSB 728728, Acc 22305642) and is supported by Nimbin Health and Welfare Association. My trip was self-funded. Crowdfunding has been launched to help this village. If you are interested in contributing please contact me at: helensim7@gmail.com

Volunteers are very welcome. We are planning to go over in September/October – labourers, carpenters, cooks. We have a house available to stay in, basic living conditions and we will need to bring food up from Melamchi. Depending on the monsoon in July and August, the road might be closed and that will hamper getting building materials up the mountain. I was hoping to get materials up before the monsoon, but lack of funds prohibit this at present.

If you are interested in volunteering and have a spare \$2000 (fare and living – mainly Kathmandu before and after) and a couple of weeks, this will be an unforgettable experience with beautiful people in spectacular scenery. Contact me on 02 6689-1417 if interested, or email.

Yvan Calvinac has a photo exhibition at Goanna Bakery in Lismore, with funds going to this cause.

Nimbin is such a giving community, thank you so much. I can imagine how big this could have been if I had more time and energy to give to it. Once again thank you to everyone for your generous support. Love and happiness.

Marie Cameron
and Nigel Hayes,
Nimbin

Grim tidings

The news from Cape Grim is grim indeed, 'Unfortunate milestone reached', (SMH 16 May), not that CO² levels in the atmosphere breached 400ppm last Tuesday, we were expecting that, but

buried in the article is the horrifying news that when all other greenhouse gases like methane are included, the figure for GHG's in the atmosphere is 485 ppm, nearly 500ppm. This puts future global temperatures way over 2 degrees, and it is already locked in.

Still no mention of climate change in the election campaign by either major parties.

We really are the dumbest species, that when given the choice between adapting our way of living or extinction, we choose extinction.

Simon Chance,
Richmond Hill

Notices

Garage Sale

Saturday 11th June, 9am-3pm at 5/23 Cullen Street. Kid's toys, clothes, jewellery, kitchen items. Trash and treasures.

Room Hire

Are you thinking of running a class or workshop? Do you need a meeting space? The Nimbin Community Centre Dance Studio is available for hire at \$11 per hour or \$33 per day, with a \$20 key deposit. Contact the Co-ordinator, Kerry Liddell on 6689-0000 or email: ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au

Join WIRES

The NSW Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service is an all-volunteer organisation that needs new members throughout the Northern Rivers region. WIRES offers a basic training course that will teach you how to safely rescue and provide emergency care for injured and orphaned wildlife. The next course will be on Sunday 5th June. Call our 24-hour hotline on 6628-1898 or see: <http://wiresnr.org/Helping.html> to join us and to learn about the many ways you can help.

Art Exhibition

A retrospective exhibition of the late David McInnes-King's drawings of his favourite Araucarias will be held at the Community Hub Art Space, 88 Keen Street Lismore, for two weeks. Opening Friday 24th June at 5.30pm by Cr Vanessa Ekins.

I am imaging that to begin with, lights out one night per year, at first in Nimbin and then around our world!

I shall weave these imaginings into my basket... because from little things, big things grow, and the moon spinners will at last be getting assistance from those whose hearts are open and have eyes to see and have no fear of the dark.

Granny Breath Weaver
Nimbin

Fiji cyclone relief

Myself and Nigel are off to Fiji soon. When I booked our holiday I got an idea about taking clothing with us to give to people who are in need and still struggling from the devastation of Cyclone Winston which struck late February. Apparently it was the biggest cyclone on record.

Through word of mouth I asked my friends and others if they could help, and it has happened. I don't want to offend anyone, but I could not go public with this because it would have got too big. From little things big things grow.

With ongoing communication with Jetstar they agreed for us to take 80 kg of donated items, how good is that? (Our weight is 7kg carry on.)

So this is a big thank you letter. I would like to thank Jetstar, especially Marc in customer care, what a compassionate and understanding man; Joe World from MultiTask for 500 soaps; RPC for portable solar kits; Nimbin Candles; OzKat Clothing and the Nimbin Lane Boys (you know who you are guys) for your generous cash donations; Susukka Trading for their beautiful clothing, all our lovely friends and others who gave so generously of much loved clothing/cash, and to people who didn't get mentioned, for what you donated, thank you.

Some of the cash went towards the solar kits and the rest will be spent on other needed goods over there. We are going to at least four villages up north of the main island where they really need help and the items will be divided.

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